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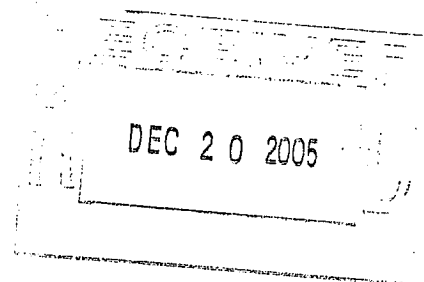
Alza Corporation

Founded in 1977 by

DAVID PACKARD

December 15, 2005

Dan Leavitt
High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Mr. Leavitt,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), I write to express our views on which alignments are appropriate to study in the Bay Area EIR/EIS process.

By way of reference, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group was founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard and represents 200 of the Silicon Valley's most respected employers. SVLG members collectively provide nearly 250,000 local jobs, or one of every four private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

SVLG supports the study of the Pacheco Pass alignment and other alternatives that do not pass through the Henry W. Coe State Park or through the Isabel and San Antonio Valleys just north of Coe Park. The negative environmental impacts of choosing a route that passes through Coe Park or the Isabel and San Antonio Valleys would be significant, and for those reasons we do not support including those alignments in the EIR/EIS study.

Although we know the Altamont Pass alignment will most likely be studied in the Bay Area EIR/EIS, we believe the Authority's decision to reject the Altamont Pass alignment—after thorough consideration—was the right one. For operational reasons alone, this route is not a viable option. The Altamont Pass would necessitate a three-way split to serve Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose, resulting in operational costs twice that of the other options under consideration. It would also require trains to pass San Jose and then turn south (from Modesto) to reach Silicon Valley—increasing travel times between San Jose and Southern California by as much as 35 minutes. To not maximize the frequency to one of the largest population centers in the region—San Jose—does not make sense for the economic-viability of the line.

We look forward to the completion of the Bay Area specific EIR/EIS. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino
President & CEO

cc: Bay Area Regional Rail Plan